

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7581

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 0225

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR OVIP EI US (COSGRAVE, LIAM)
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE

REF: DUBLIN 223, STATE 24893

1. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5 AT 1100 HOURS EST IS ACCEPTABLE FOR JOINT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO U.S.
2. RE PARA 3 OF STATE 24893 WHICH CONTAINS TEXT OF SUGGESTED PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT, PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE HAS REQUESTED WHITE HOUSE CONSIDERATION OF FOLLOWING SLIGHTLY ALTERED TEXT. THE REASONS FOR THE SUGGESTED CHANGES ARE IN PARA 4, BELOW.
3. BEGIN TEXT: PRESIDENT FORD HAS INVITED PRIME MINISTER LIAM COSGRAVE OF IRELAND TO PAY AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES IN CONNECTION WITH THE UNITED STATES BICENTENNIAL. PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE HAS ACCEPTED THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION WITH PLEASURE AND WILL MEET WITH HIM FOR DISCUSSIONS ON MARCH 17 DURING THE COURSE OF HIS VISIT. THE TWO LEADERS LOOK FORWARD TO MARKING THE CLOSE TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND IRISH PEOPLE, AND TO REVIEWING A NUMBER OF MATTERS OF CURRENT COMMON INTEREST. END TEXT.
4. CHANGE NUMBER ONE: BY LOCAL HISTORICAL PRACTICE, THE PRIME MINISTER IS REFERRED TO AS THE "PRIME MINISTER OF IRELAND" RATHER THAN THE "PRIME MINISTER OF CONFIDENTIAL

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THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND". CHANGE NUMBER TWO: THIS ELIMINATES

THE IMPLICATION THAT THE VISIT IS OF ONE DAY'S DURATION, I.E.
MAY 17 ONLY, AND SIMPLY LEAVES OPEN THE LENGTH OF THE "OFFICIAL
VISIT". CHANGE NUMBER THREE ELIMINATES "US - EUROPEAN RELATIONS"
BY SUBSTITUTING "MATTERS OF CURRENT COMMON INTEREST". THE IRISH
GOVERNMENT FEELS STRONGLY THAT PM COSGRAVE CANNOT BE BILLED PUBLICLY
AS DISCUSSING US- EC RELATIONS OUT OF DEFERENCE TO ITS EC PARTNERS.
IN SHORT, COSGRAVE IS NOT MANDATED BY IRELANDS' E.C. PARTNERS TO
BE A SPOKESMAN FOR THE OTHER EC EIGHT. PRIVATELY, THE PRIME MINISTER
HAS NO PROBLEM WITH "US- EUROPEAN RELATIONS" AS PART OF THE AGENDA.

5. FINALLY, THE IRISH VERSION
OF THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT WILL IDENTIFY COSGRAVE BY HIS TITLE IN
THE IRISH LANGUAGE AS "THE TAOISEACH", RATHER THAN AS THE PRIME
MINISTER. THEY RECOGNIZE THE NEED TO USE THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TITLE
OF "PRIME MINISTER" IN THE US PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT AND HAVE NO
PROBLEM WITH IT.

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